

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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SUBJECT: UPI REPORT ON PRESIDENTIAL STOPOVER IN BRUSSELS

EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW

1. UPI CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY (UPI 009) DATELINED
KEY BISCAYNE, MAY 25: QUOTE PRESIDENT NIXON WILL STOP IN
BRUSSELS, HEADQUARTERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANI-
ZATION, FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY EN ROUTE TO THE MOSCOW SUMMIT
MEETING LATE NEXT MONTH, IT WAS LEARNED SATURDAY.

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THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION SOURCES,

PLANS TO DEPART WASHINGTON JUNE 22 FOR BRUSSELS WHERE HE WILL CONFER WITH EUROPEAN OFFICIALS BEFORE JOURNEYING TO THE SOVIET UNION.

HE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS WITH SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV THE EVENING OF JUNE 23 OR MORNING OF JUNE 24.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER SAID THAT A JOINT FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP WILL BE MADE SHORTLY. THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT HE MAY REMAIN IN RUSSIA LONGER THAN A WEEK AND TOUR SIBERIA AND THE BLACK SEA.

NIXON AND BREZHNEV CONFERRED AT PREVIOUS SUMMIT MEETINGS IN JUNE 1972 IN MOSCOW AND LAST JUNE IN WASHINGTON. SOVIET

OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO BE "VERY EAGER" FOR THE NIXON VISIT DESPITE HIS WEAKENED DOMESTIC STANDING AS A RESULT OF THE WATERGATE SCANDAL AND THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDING.

WHITE HOUSE AIDES AND ARAB DIPLOMATS ALSO ARE HINTING THAT NIXON MAY UNDERTAKE A MIDDLE EAST SWING THE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE IF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SUCCEEDS IN GETTING AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN TROOP DISENGAGEMENT.

NIXON HOPES TO INCLUDE IN SUCH AN ITINERARY STOPS IN EGYPT, ISRAEL, SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, AND POSSIBLY OTHER ARAB CAPITALS. END QUOTE.

2. PRESS SECRETARY ZEIGLER CAUTIONED THE PRESS AT HIS MAY 25 BRIEFING IN KEY BISCAYNE THAT SUCH REPORTS AS THE FOREGOING SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. CONCERNING A VISIT TO BRUSSELS, HE SAID "THERE IS NOTHING SET. THERE ARE NO PLANS." ZIEGLER WENT ON TO SAY THIS COULD CHANGE DEPENDING ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS AS WE CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES. BROWN

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